

BA 2006

HELB HOUSE (MIDDLE)/ PEARCE HOUSE

1881-1896

PARKTON

PRIVATE

This is the middle of three houses put up by Frederick Helb sometime after 1881 and before the 1896 tax ledger listed four frame houses in his account. This house and its companion on the south were sold to George and Lydia Hartenstein in 1905. The Hartensteins sold this middle structure of Chestnut Row in 1925 to Philip A. Borneman. The present (Pearce) owners have held this house since 1950. Roofing is green composition shingle; walls are covered with a brick-patterned rubber siding in brownish-yellow tone.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC HELB HOUSE (Middle)

AND/OR COMMON

Pearce House (Millard W.)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

18,909 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Parkton

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

COUNTY

Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Millard Wallace Pearce and wife

Telephone #: Not listed.

STREET & NUMBER

18,909 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: TBS 1867

Folio #: 437

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HELB HOUSE (Middle)

BA-2006

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Helb House (Middle) is similar to the other two built as a set and stands on the hill north of Parkton, the house facing west. This is the most drab of the three, a two-story plus attic, gable-roofed, vernacular structure four bays wide by two bays deep, a frame and clapboard duplex now covered with rubber roofing material of a yellow-brown tone imprinted in a brick pattern. The two entrance doors are clustered in the center bays. There is a full-width, shed-roofed front porch supported by four round posts, lathed with various moldings. Windows are 6-over-6, double-hung sash types without shutters. All bays in both stories and in the two-bay depth of the side walls are supplied with windows of this type.

The two small, square windows in each gable peak contain four lights.

The rear of the house is three bays across, somewhat irregularly fenestrated with the same type of 6-over-6 windows. A two-bay wide, shed-roofed, one-story addition is tacked onto the back of the house at the north end. The addition is shallow but provides two bays of depth; and its southside provides an entrance via a high stairway and there is also one square window.

The ground drops away from the foundation from roadside to rear of this house and, in back, there is a high basement with a walk-in entrance, and a full-scale, 6-over-6 double-hung sash window as well. The space under the rear extension is filled in and provides an extension of the basement.

The foundation is stone.

Roofing on this structure, as noted before, is gabled with slightly overhanging eaves. The roofing material is green rubber. There are two inside end-chimneys.

A picket fence runs in front of the house; the rear yard contains a two-bay, shed-roofed, unpainted poultry house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	— COMMUNITY PLANNING	— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	— RELIGION
— 1400-1499	— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	— CONSERVATION	— LAW	— SCIENCE
— 1500-1599	— AGRICULTURE	— ECONOMICS	— LITERATURE	— SCULPTURE
— 1600-1699	— ARCHITECTURE	— EDUCATION	— MILITARY	— SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
— 1700-1799	— ART	— ENGINEERING	— MUSIC	— THEATER
X — 1800-1899	— COMMERCE	— EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	— PHILOSOPHY	— TRANSPORTATION
— 1900-	— COMMUNICATIONS	— INDUSTRY	— POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	— OTHER (SPECIFY)
		— INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1881-1896

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is the middle one of three (or possibly four) houses that were originally identical, built of once plentiful chestnut wood and, according to an adjoining landowner, was called "Chestnut Row." (1)

The land here was part of the timbering tract owned until 1880 by Christoff Kolter, who became insolvent. In the early 1880s, some of the timberland came on the market as town lots, and Frederick Helb, who was involved in settling Kolter's affairs, acquired this lot in 1881 for \$180; the deed described it as adjoining Patrick Kelly's property. (2)

The 1896 tax ledger charged Helb with "4 frame houses on York Road at Parkton @ \$700," a total of \$2800 worth of improvements. Helb was described as a resident of Railroad Post Office, York County, Pennsylvania. (3)

In 1905, Helb died, still a resident of York County, and his executors sold the southern two houses to Lydia Hartenstein. (4) Helb had been engaged in a number of businesses and his will mentioned as one of his Pennsylvania assets "hides and bark in the tannery." (5) He had also been shown as owner of a sawmill somewhere between the towns of Maryland Line and Parkton on 226 acres charged to his account in the ledger of 1896.

The 1911 tax ledger showed that George L. Hartenstine (sic) was owner of two lots on the eastside of York Road at Parkton along with two dwellings worth \$800 each. (6) One of the other Chestnut Row Houses (the one now numbered 18,911 York Road) had gone into the hands of Edward Helb.

The 1918 tax ledger showed that George L. Hardenstine (sic) was owner of two houses located south of Edward Helb's. The two structures were listed as:

Dwelling #1	24 x 32	2 stories	\$887
Dwelling #2	24 x 32	2 stories	887. (7)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

These houses also appeared in Bromley's atlas of 1915. The same assessment of 1918 shows that the house in Edward Helb's possession was of identical dimensions to the two shown above and was worth \$800. If there had been a fourth identical house in the beginning, it perished in the 1960s or so. (8)

In 1925, the Hartensteins sold this middle house of the present row and the northernmost of their pair of structures, to Philip A. Borneman and wife. The deed described the grounds as "the eastern half of the real estate which Edward Helb and Julius C. Helb, Executors, of Frederick Helb ... by indenture ... bearing date ... 1905 ... conveyed to Lydia Hartenstein, August 28, 1906." (9)

Mrs. Borneman outlived her husband, and died on October 10, 1948, leaving as her heirs Etta B. Wheeler and Walter P. Wheeler. The Wheelers conveyed to the present owners in 1950. (10)

NOTES:

1. Interview with neighbor, local history expert, Miss Emily R. Stiffler, March 1980.
2. Baltimore County Deeds, WMI 130:500.
3. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1896, Entry #238-47.
4. B.C. Deeds, WPC 304:190.
5. B.C. Deeds, WPC 608:148. Also, York County Wills, SS 19:94.
6. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 544.
7. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 533.
8. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 556.
9. B.C. Deeds, WPC 610:34.
10. B.C. Deeds, TBS 1867:437.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HELB HOUSE (Middle)

Baltimore County Deeds and Tax Ledgers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.410

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

S15W 74 ft
 S15W 18
 S61-3/4W 190
 S24-1/2W 69
 N61-3/4E 194
 N15E 26

N70E 70.5 ft
 N15E 56.5 ft to Beginning.

(Map 17, Parcel P218)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE NONE

COUNTY NONE

STATE

NONE

COUNTY

NONE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

May 28, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

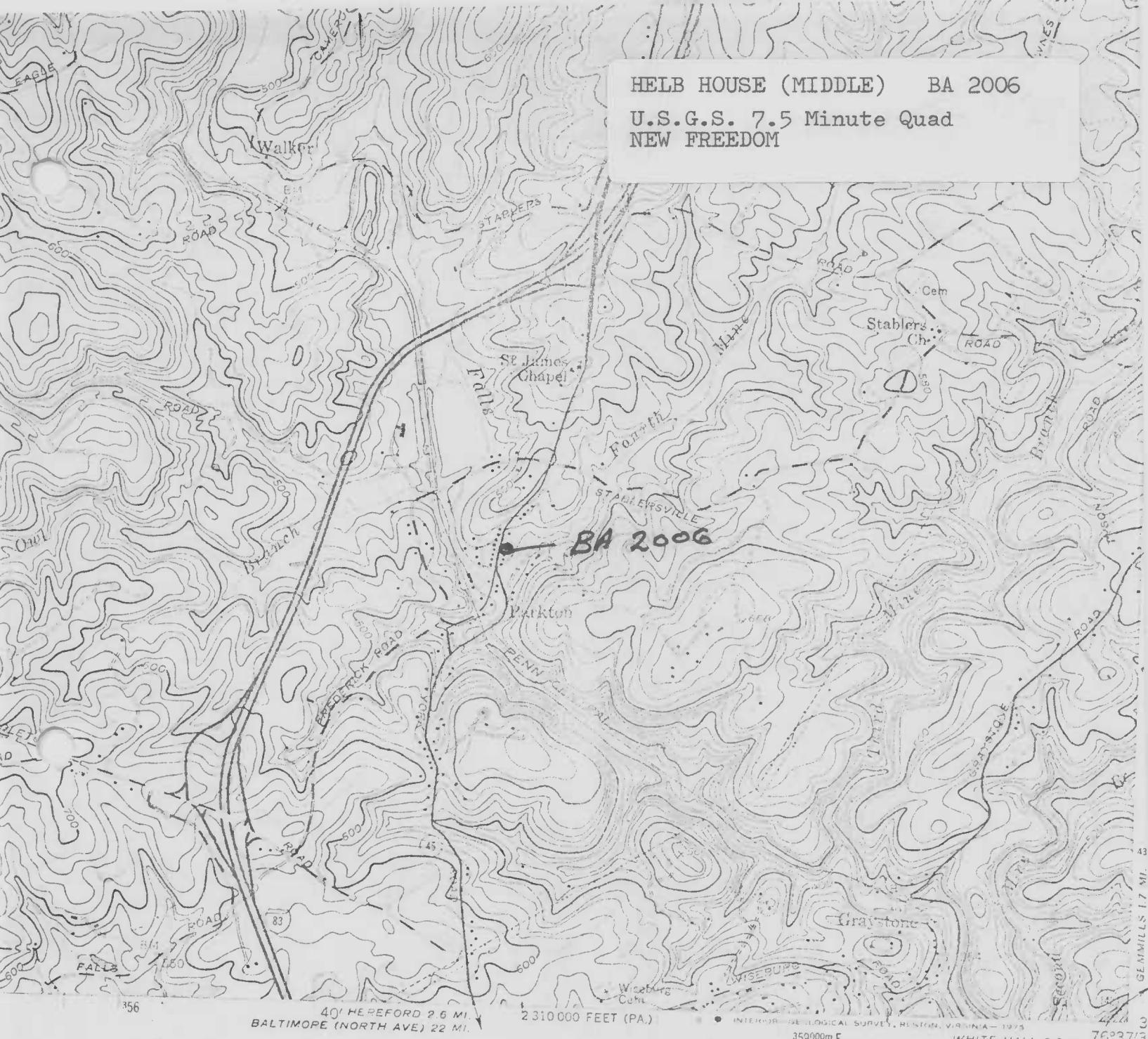
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

HELB HOUSE (MIDDLE) BA 2006

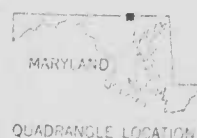
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad
NEW FREEDOM



1 MILE
5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETRE

FEET
MUM OF 1929

ACCURACY STANDARDS
STON, VIRGINIA 22092
OLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1974. This information not field checked.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty - - - - - Unimproved dirt - - - - -
U.S. Route State Route

NEW FREEDOM, MD.—PA.

N3937.5—W7637.5/7.5

1958
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5663 II NW—SERIES V233



HELB HOUSE (MIDDLE) BA 2006
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, October 1980
Neg located at MHT
Main (west) facade



HELB HOUSE (MIDDLE) BA 2006
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, October 1980
Neg. at MHT
Main (W) & north facades from NW



HELB HOUSE (MIDDLE) BA 2006
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, March 1980
Neg. located at MHT
Rear (middle house in photo)